

REMARKS

Summary Of Office Action

Claims 1-35 were pending in this application.

Claims 4, 7, 11, 14-23, 25, and 28-35 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed toward non-elected species.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1-3, 10, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Harlos et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,805,021 (hereinafter "Harlos"). Claims 1-3, 10, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwamoto et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,292,040 (hereinafter "Iwamoto"). Claims 1-3, 10, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Li et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,208,183 (hereinafter "Li"). Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 24, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lin U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0081473 (hereinafter "Lin"). Claims 1-3, 10, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zarate et al. U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0062510 (hereinafter "Zarate").

Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 26, and 27 and added new claims 36 and 37 to more particularly define the invention. No new matter has been added and the amendments and new claims are fully supported by the original specification.

Applicants have also canceled claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 18, 24, 25, 29, and 33 without prejudice.

Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicants' Reply to the
Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have canceled independent claim 1 without prejudice. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 as amended are fully in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Applicants' Reply to the
Rejection of Claims 5, 6, 12, 13,
26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 24, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lin.

Amended claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 26, and 27 have been rewritten in independent form. Amended claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 26, and 27 are directed towards, generally speaking, methods and apparatus for generating a clock signal based on a periodic reference signal. The clock signal is generated using synchronous mirror delay circuits (claims 5, 12, and 26) and measure-controlled delay circuits (claims 6, 13, and 27). The generated clock signal is fed back and adjusted to synchronize the fed back clock signal with the reference

signal. Amended claims 5, 6, 26, and 27 further specify that in response to an indication, the clock signal will continue to be generated using a delayed fed back clock signal independent of the reference signal. Amended claims 11 and 12 further specify that in response to an indication, the clock signal will be maintained independent of the reference signal.

Lin refers to a synchronized mirror delay circuit that is used to generate an internal clock signal from an external clock signal applied to the synchronized mirror delay. The internal clock signal is delayed and fed back to the synchronous mirror delay circuit in order to adjust the delay to compensate for propagation delays. Lin does not show continuing to generate the clock signal in response to the fed back signal independent of the reference signal or maintaining the clock signal independent of the reference signal. In fact, Lin requires the reference external clock signal to generate and maintain the internal clock signal. Thus, Lin does not show all of the elements of applicants' amended claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 26, and 27. Further, Lin does not show generating a clock signal using a measure-controlled delay circuit as required by applicants' amended claims 6, 13, and 27.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of amended claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 26, and 27 in view of Lin be withdrawn.

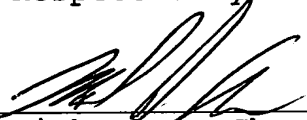
Amended claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 and new claims 36 and 37 depend from independent claims 5 and 6, respectively. For at least this reason, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 be withdrawn and submit that new claims 36 and 37 are in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/840,015
February 8, 2006 Reply To
November 8, 2005 Office Action

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 26, 27, 36, and 37 are patentable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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